

**Michigan Center for the Environment & Children's Health (MCECH)**  
**COMMUNITY ACTION AGAINST ASTHMA NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING PROJECT**

### **What is CAAA?**



A community-based, participatory research partnership working to improve the health of children with asthma in the East and Southwest sides of Detroit. The partnership is between the Detroit Health Department, CHASS, Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation, Latino Family Services, Kettering Butzel Health

Initiative, Butzel Family Center, Warren Conner Development Coalition, Friends of Parkside, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, the Michigan Department of Agriculture Division of Plant and Pest Management, United Community Housing Coalition and the University of Michigan Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The purpose of community-based participatory research projects is to enhance the understanding of issues affecting the community and to develop, implement and evaluate plans of action that will address those issues in ways that benefit the community.

Since 1999, CAAA has been researching air quality and working with families in their homes in Southwest and Eastside Detroit. For the household activities, outreach workers called Community Environmental Specialists (CES's) visited homes of families who signed up to be in the household project. During these visits, the CESs worked with the families to educate them about asthma triggers (things that may cause an asthma attack), and to develop a plan to reduce the household environmental triggers for asthma. For the air quality research, CAAA is collecting information on the quality of the indoor and outdoor air in Southwest and Eastside Detroit and looking at the relationship between the quality of the air, lung functioning, and reports of asthma symptoms of the children enrolled in the household project.

### **What is the Neighborhood Organizing Project of CAAA?**

The Neighborhood Organizing Project seeks to work with neighborhood groups, community organizations and agencies to reduce environmental threats to the neighborhood. The project seeks to do this in the following ways:

1. By sharing with community groups and organizations the findings from the data collected through the household and air quality research of the CAAA project.
2. By identifying and engaging existing community groups and organizations that might be interested in working on environmental issues important to their neighborhood and community. CAAA staff are housed in community based organizations and are willing to work with partner organizations to identify community groups who might be interested in being part of an inter-organizational network (I.N.).
3. By working with member groups of the I.N. to organize, coordinate and conduct activities to reduce physical environmental threats related to asthma. These activities will be based on the data feedback and priority setting.
4. By increasing community awareness and knowledge of factors associated with the environment and asthma through sharing of findings to community residents. This will be done through presentations, generation of annual reports for I.N. organizations, postings on existing partner websites and annual community forums.

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#### **Partners**

**Butzel Family Center**

**Community Health and  
Social Services (CHASS)**

**Detroit Hispanic  
Development  
Corporation**

**Detroiters Working for  
Environmental Justice**

**Friends of Parkside**

**Kettering/Butzel Health  
Initiative**

**Latino Family Services**

**United Community  
Housing Coalition**

**Warren/Conner  
Development Coalition**

**Detroit Health Dept.**

**Henry Ford Health  
System**

**University of Michigan  
School of Public Health**

**University of Michigan  
School of Medicine**

**Michigan Department of  
Agriculture Pesticide &  
Plant Pest Management**

**Funded by:  
Environmental  
Protection Agency**

**National Institute of  
Environmental Health  
Sciences**

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**What are the Benefits to Me or My Organization?**

CAAA can work with your neighborhood group or organization in learning more about reducing environmental threats in your neighborhood and developing strategies to reduce the environmental threats in your neighborhood. Through the I.N., CAAA can help your group or organization link with other organizations in the Southwest and Eastside of Detroit working on similar issues around the quality of life of your neighborhood.

**Where can I learn more about this project?**

For more information, contact:

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